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SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EB, NEA, AND EUR/ERA

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TAGS: [EAID](#) [PREL](#) [IZ](#) [EUN](#) [USEU](#) [BRUSSELS](#)

SUBJECT: IRAQ: EC MEETING WITH A/S WAYNE

Classified By: USEU POLOFF LEE LITZENBERGER; REASONS 1.4 (B,D)

¶1. (C) In a July 8 meeting in Brussels, EB A/S Wayne discussed next steps on Iraq with Fernando Valenzuela, Deputy Director General for External Relations at the Commission. Valenzuela was accompanied by Patrick Laurent, Head of Gulf Countries and Barcelona process, Richard Wright, the EC's new Transatlantic guru, and Wright's Deputy, Americas desk head Gunnar Wiegand. A/S Wayne thanked Valenzuela for the EC's cooperation from the start on Iraq's reconstruction, noted the positive discussion on Iraq at the recent U.S.-EU summit, and said the U.S. was looking ahead to the mid-October donors' summit in Tokyo. As the security situation stabilizes, A/S Wayne noted, the U.S. hopes to see the EC move back to Iraq. Laurent noted the EC has just established an "Iraq coordination cell" in Amman. Laurent added that member states "want the EC in Iraq tomorrow," but Valenzuela said the Commission would be "prudent" due to continuing security concerns. The EC wants to see what security steps the Interim Government (IIG) takes and what the UN decides regarding its presence in Iraq.

Election Support

¶2. (C) Valenzuela asked how the U.S. sees Iraq's ability to build a technically competent bureaucracy; A/S Wayne responded that officials with recent experience in the West are few, and there is a great need for short term training, and advisors to build up expertise in the IIG. Wayne also briefed on the status of election support, noting that the UN, which has the lead in organizing electoral assistance, is still working on a cost estimate. Laurent said the EU has already committed 50 million Euros for election support through the UN trust fund, and is considering other options, from donating additional funds to more "direct" involvement through member states. The balance, he said, was between having visibility in-country, and "getting shot." Valenzuela told A/S Wayne that he thought France and Germany were "more forthcoming" on Iraq at a recent EU Political Directors meeting, but that neither country was expected to rush in and provide assistance; rather they will wait and see how the security situation evolves.

Security Remains #1 Issue for EC

¶3. (C) Laurent said one concern is that political observers predict that the security situation in Iraq will get worse before it gets better. He said he was impressed by how well the UN and World Bank had been able to work from Amman by "remote control;" Valenzuela wondered what UNSYG Annan's thoughts were on when the UN might go back in Iraq. Laurent said the attack on the UN headquarters had left a strong impression that soft targets are really under a threat; the opposition is intelligent and has a strategy. A/S Wayne responded that, with the transfer of sovereignty, Iraqis are now in charge of their country. This should make it harder for the opposition to recruit new members and, at the same time, make it easier for the IIG to fill government positions. In response to a question from Wayne, Laurent said the EC has now disbursed all of its previous pledge to the UN/World Bank trust funds, adding that the EC will remain vigilant with pressure on the fund managers to disburse funds and begin projects in coordination with the Iraqis.

MCKINLEY